4. Mechanisation of loading/unloading facilities; and

5. Improving productivity in labour and equipments.

Setting up of Public Interest Litigation Cell in High Courts

2865. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Chief Justices Conference has recommended for the setting up of a Public Interest Litigation Cell in each High Court;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made thereon;

(c) the names of High Courts which have implemented the recommendations;

(d) the categories of persons or bodies who can submit their petitions for seeking judicial relief; and

(e) whether the Supreme Court have also issued any guidelines to the Government in this regard and if so, the details thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b): Yes, Sir. The All India Chief Justices' Conference, 1991 has recommended the setting up of a Public Interest Litigation Cell in each High Court to enable the poor, oppressed and economically or physically handicapped to seek judicial relief.

(c) As per the information received from the Supreme Court, the recommendations have so far been implemented by the High Courts of Andhra Pradesh, Bombay, Delhi, Guwahati, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Sikkim.

(d) and (e). As per the information received from the Supreme Court of India, the All India Chief Justices' Conference referred to in the Question also resolved that the guidelines dated 1.12.1988 followed by the Supreme Court for entertaining letters/petitions received as public interest litigation may be followed by the High Courts subject to modifications having regard to local conditions. These guidelines enumerate a wide variety of categories of matters/persons in respect of which/whom letters/petitions will ordinarily be entertained such as bonded labour, neglected children, non-payment of minimum wages, petitions from jails complaining harassment, complaints of death in police custody, petitions against atrocities on women, etc. as well as matters of public importance but excluding individual/personal matters.

Export Price of Cotton

2866. SHRI GANGADHARA SANIPALLI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether export price of cotton is less than domestic price;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for exporting cotton at lower price than the domestic price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The export price of Bengal Deshi cotton which has only been allowed

for export during the current cotton season has been higher than the domestic price.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Mechanised Coal Berth at Paradip Port

2868. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since approved the proposal for introduction of multipurpose cargo earth and mechanised coal berth at Paradip Port;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b).The proposals for creation of a multipurpose cargo berth at an estimated cost of Rs. 24.94 crores and mechanised coal berth at an estimated cost of Rs. 511.25 crores at Paradip Port are being processed for investment decision by the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Pension-Cum-Insurance Scheme for Farm Labourers

2869. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce Pension-cum-Insurance Scheme for the Welfare of arm labourers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A group insurance scheme for Landless Agricultural Labourers is already in operation, all over the country, under which the head of an agricultural labourer's family, not owning any land, is covered for a sum assured for Rs. 2000/-. The enquire premium for this insurance cover is met from the social security fund maintained by the Life Insurance Corporation of India.

Financial Assistance to Small Scale Sector

2870. SHRI HARI KISHROE SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Federation of Associations of Cottage and Small Industries for making available need based finance at affordable rates of interest to the small scale sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). While no specific proposal has been received from the Federation of Associations of Cottage and Small Industries (FACSI), Government has received various representations regarding making available need based finance at affordable rates of interest to the Small Scale Sector. RBI has reported that for term loans upto Rs. 2 lakhs, the SSI Sector enjoys concessional rate of interest. For term loans over Rs. 2 lakhs, the rate of interest has been